

Veterans Resource Center



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VRC Mission

To serve student veterans and their dependents with the highest quality and comprehensive support in an environment that provides commitment, respect, and academic excellence. Our commitment is to provide education, administrative services, and job/ career advisement to our student veterans, their dependents, as well as outreach to military communities at large.



Goals

- To make the University of New Mexico known as the premier veteran friendly institution in a veteran friendly state.
- To increase the admission, retention and graduation rates of veterans.
- To make the Veterans Resource Center an accessible resource to all of New Mexico's veterans.
- To ensure that the Veterans Resource Center is effectively and efficiently meeting the needs of New Mexico's veterans and their dependents.
- To increase access to higher education for veterans and their families.
- To remove social, physical, and psychological barriers through a strong and vibrant network with New Mexico's vast veteran services, other higher education institutions and internal UNM organizations.



The VRC?

- **Is a New Mexico Resource**
- A centralized resource center easily accessible by ALL Veterans and their families
- A veteran run organization for Veterans to assist in transitioning from military to Civilian / Academic environment
- Fully networked into Veteran Services throughout New Mexico
 - On site Local Veteran Employment Representative and Disabled American Veterans representative
 - MOU's with Department of Veteran Services, NM Work Force Solutions and Central New Mexico College



Primary Objectives

- Expand the accessibility of higher education to student veterans and their dependents.
- Provide exceptional assistance, services and support to student veterans pursuing a higher education.
- Increase admission, retention, graduation rates, and job search and preparation guidance to student veterans.
- Function as an effective and efficient resource center that fosters positive growth and development.



VRC Infrastructure

- Recruitment through Community Outreach
- Streamlined Enrollment & Certification Process
- Educational Program Counseling & Academic Progression Review Services
- Facilitate Networking & Support
 - Employment and Career Services
 - Women Resource Center
 - Student Veterans of UNM
- Provide Students with External Resources
 - Military Disability & Compensation Services
 - Determine Unemployment Insurance Eligibility
 - Veteran Affairs Work-study Program



Why VRCs

- Veterans are more than just non-traditional students -- Transitions are very complex
 - There is not a clean handshake between the DOD and the VA
 - Many services and much red tape – Who / What / Where?
- Combat – they are not only making sense of their family life but dealing with their experiences
- Navigating academia doesn't make sense, let alone the VA GI Bill bureaucracy
 - Where's the checklist? What GI Bill should I use? How do I get it?



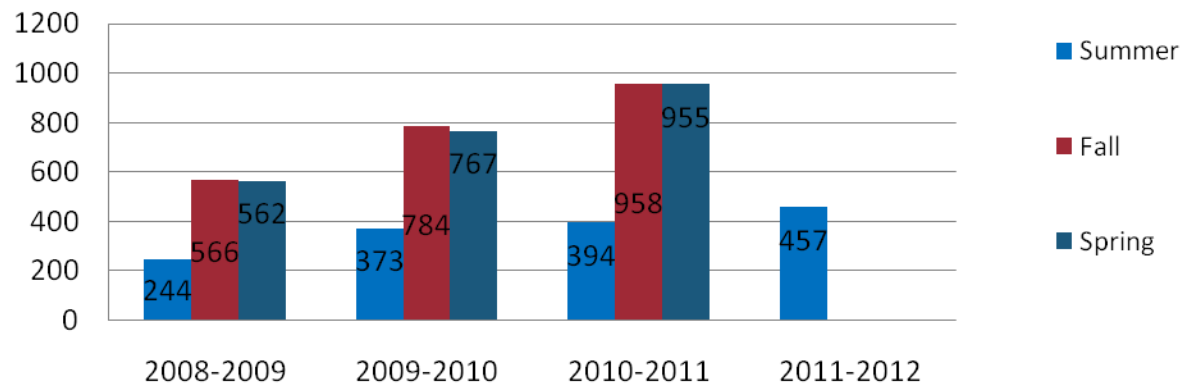
Education Benefits

- Post 9/11 GI Bill
 - Chapter 33
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR&E)
 - Chapter 31
- Dependent Educational Assistance
 - Chapter 35
- Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve
 - Chapter 1606
- Montgomery GI BILL – Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
 - Chapter 1607
- Vietnam Veterans Scholarship

UNM Veteran Population

- UNM's population is varied with combat and non-combat veterans – ALL AGES and dependent family members
- Recent changes to admissions application will help us identify the total population – those using benefits and those who are not

UNM GI Bill Enrollment



* *Fall 2011 Registrations are already over August 11, 2010 figures.*



College Credits for Military Service

- American Council on Education (ACE)
 - Recommendations ~ Lower Baccalaureate, Upper Baccalaureate, and Vocational
 - UNM Accepts Upper and Lower Baccalaureate
- BA = 192 credits – max in financial aid Pell
- Military Credits can be taken off transcripts at request of student
- Transfers Directly
 - Community College of the Air Force
 - Credits taken at any accredited college while on active duty



Accomplishments

- Implemented a series of Faculty and Staff training at UNM on TBI and PTSD
- Integrated with UNM Orientation and Enrollment Management to interact with Veterans and Family members Transferring to UNM before semester begins
- Expanded outreach to Various Veteran Integration Centers
- Strengthened Community involvement by collaborating with more Veteran Oriented organizations serving New Mexico Veterans needs
- Initiated new system within UNM to improve Veteran Retention and Graduation Rates



Projects

- Establish an Upward Bound Program to assist with Veteran Transition and Retention
- SERV – Supportive Education for Returning Veterans
 - UNM carry the full 9 credit courses
 - CNM cohort classes
- Obtain a Veterans Lounge and veteran specific housing
- Veteran Peer Mentoring Group
- Continue to work with New Mexico's Congressional Staff and Veterans Legislative Committee on issues affecting Veterans



What you can do

- Showcase NM as a Veteran Friendly State by a SB 136 state wide marketing campaign
- Enhance the Networking and Outreach of the VRC with additional personnel funding
 - Need additional monies for staffing and outreach
- Continue to increase the linkages of all of New Mexico's Veteran Services



Veterans Resource Center

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